

part of one of the political parties of the State.

Now, it is rather significant to me that the model state constitution contains virtually no language at all on finance, because it believes that the majority of these matters are statutory in nature. But to the extent it does contain any language, it specifically authorizes the General Assembly to increase, as well as to decrease.

What the Goodnow Committee really did was to take the 1898 Baltimore City Charter, and it said that from 1898 through 1916 it worked very well. The Committee was very upset about the fact that the State had to borrow money to take care of the deficit financing which had occurred over the years.

I submit to you that the State of Maryland merely went to a political subdivision, found the practice worked satisfactorily, and said, this is the practice we want to employ in order to eliminate deficit spending. There is nothing in this proposal that you have before you, this amendment, which will authorize deficit spending. It would, however, put the legislature on a co-equal basis with the other branches of government.

I am not suggesting that this should be the vehicle to break up the governor's ability to prepare an overall budget, but I say to you, you really place little responsibility in the General Assembly when you will allow it to set the tax rate and to raise their rubber stamps—all in favor will say Aye, in favor of the governor's budget. That is hardly a sign of imposing responsibility.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-quarter minute.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: If we are really sincere about making the General Assembly the responsible body we aspire for it, ladies and gentlemen, I urge you to give this amendment favorable consideration. This is the question of the future status of one of the three major branches of state government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Mr. Chairman, I am not one of the so-called experts in this field, nor do I pretend to be so by inference or by reason of having been chair-

man of any of the committees, three or otherwise.

However, what is really apparent here, insofar as a layman's reaction is concerned, is that by the proposal of the Committee we have a clearcut budgetary system. We have an executive officer who is responsible for drawing up that initial budget for the purpose of carrying out a program on the basis of which he has been elected.

Then we have a review of that budget with certain powers provided, by way of increase where dealing with the legislative or judicial branches, and concerning reducing or striking any items, except those clearly spelled out which can not be subjected to such striking or reducing.

When we permit the legislature to enter the field of preparing the budget in the manner proposed by the amendment, we are clearly opening up a juggling process whereby as they increase, decrease, transfer, and add new items, the result would be nothing other than an individual such as myself, or any other person not an expert in the field, being lost in the maze of confusion which results.

By supplementary appropriation as I understand it the General Assembly can do all of the things which are mentioned in the recommendation. But when it does so by a supplementary process, it must do so by a bill which must be debated on the floor, given the result and the publicity from such an approach, can be subjected to veto or overridden if that veto is not concurred in by the General Assembly.

But certainly each of the purposes for which the proponents of the amendment are arguing in favor of the amendment, the supplementary processes I feel equally accomplish the result.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-quarter minute, Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: But it is clear-cut, straight-forward, one to which we have become accustomed, and I urge that the amendment not be adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bamberger.

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: I rise to speak for the amendment.

First, please understand, this is not by any means a proposal for deficit financing. We have attempted in the amendment to make it perfectly clear that whatever changes the legislature would make in the budget, the budget must still be balanced.